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Dear Parents and Carers

Scarlet Fever

Following on from my letter to you of 30th November, we have been advised of a further two suspected cases of Scarlet Fever. These are not contained to one class I'm afraid. Our local GP has advised that these cases have not been confirmed but are being treated as though they are Scarlet Fever. This has now been reported to Public Health, which is a statutory requirement and Warwickshire County Council will be releasing a statement in due course as rates have increased across the county. I have a meeting, along with other Heads across Warwickshire, tomorrow with Public Health and I will inform you of any updates immediately after.

Although scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, it should be treated with antibiotics to minimise the risk of complications and reduce the spread to others.

The symptoms of scarlet fever include a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. This is followed by a fine red rash which typically first appears on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body. On more darkly-pigmented skin, the scarlet rash may be harder to spot, but it should feel like 'sandpaper'. The face can be flushed red but pale around the mouth.

If you think you, or your child, have scarlet fever:

- see your GP or contact NHS 111 as soon as possible
- make sure that you/your child takes the full course of any antibiotics prescribed by the doctor
- stay at home, away from nursery, school or work for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection



Complications

Children who have had chickenpox recently are more likely to develop more serious infection during an outbreak of scarlet fever and so parents should remain vigilant for symptoms such as a persistent high fever, cellulitis (skin infection) and arthritis (joint pain and swelling). If you are concerned for any reason please seek medical assistance immediately.



If your child has an underlying condition which affects their immune system, you should contact your GP or hospital doctor to discuss whether any additional measures are needed.

You can find more information in the guidance Scarlet fever: symptoms, diagnosis and treatment - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/scarlet-fever-symptoms-diagnosis-treatment>, and further advice can also be obtained from your GP or Nurse at your GP Practice.

Yours sincerely



Maureen Collier

